

Requesting The Public Service Commission To Direct Verizon To Provide Fiber-Optic Internet Access To The Hudson Valley

Referred to: The Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee (Chairman Richard Parete and Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Roberts and Ronk)

Legislator David Donaldson and Legislators Allen, Archer, Bartels, Briggs, Donaldson, Greene, Gregorius, Loughran, John Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez, and Wishnick offer the following:

WHEREAS, reliable, affordable, high-speed internet is a necessity, not a luxury, in today's world, and the fastest, most reliable internet access is via fiber-optics; and

WHEREAS, the lack of high speed internet access required by local businesses is discouraging them from expanding into the Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, all businesses, schools and residents in the Ulster County should not be denied the same access and services that are readily available to consumers in downstate New York; and

WHEREAS, Verizon is refusing to complete and expand the installation of its fiber-optic cable in remaining portions of Ulster County, claiming that it cannot justify the cost of the installation of fiber-optic cables, that hooking them up to the homes of potential customers is expensive, and that it takes a long time for Verizon to recover that investment; and

WHEREAS, despite such claims, FiOS is indeed profitable for Verizon; and

WHEREAS, New York State has appropriated \$500 million dollars of taxpayer monies in the State budget to enable Verizon to build a fiber-optic network across the State; and

WHEREAS, Verizon is a public utility and controls rights-of-way and, as such, has an obligation to provide high-speed services to all users; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission has the regulatory authority to demand that Verizon act if it fails to do so; and

WHEREAS, Legislative and public pressure upon Verizon would raise the likelihood of it yielding to the demand the installation of fiber-optic cables and completion of work already begun locally, thereby favoring and benefiting the interests of consumers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature requests the Public Service Commission to use their regulatory authority and direct Verizon to immediately take

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all action necessary to deliver and make available to our community high speed internet access via the installation of fiber-optics; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Ulster County Legislature, on behalf of the residents of their residents, requests that the New York State Assembly and Senate support this action on behalf of their constituents,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: NOES:

Passed Committee: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services on August 17, 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE